

185. *Le secrétaire aux Colonies au Gouverneur général*DESPATCH 819¹

My Lord Duke,

Downing Street, November 11, 1919

With reference to my despatch Dominions No. 805 of the 29th October I have the honour to request Your Excellency to inform your Ministers that His Majesty's Government would be glad to be informed as soon as possible by telegraph whether they see any objection to ratification by His Majesty of The Arms Traffic Convention and Protocol signed at St. Germain on September 10th, 1919.

I have etc.

MILNER

186. *L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis au Foreign Office*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM

Washington, November 14, 1919

Referring to my telegram No. 1569. Sir Robert Borden agrees that the following question should be put in the House of Commons:

To ask what upon a fair construction of the League of Nations Covenant are the voting rights of the different parts of the British Empire under Article 15.

The reply which Sir Robert Borden thinks should be made and in which I entirely concur would be as follows:

Under Article 15 of the Covenant members of the League do not vote upon a 'dispute likely to lead to rupture' to which any of them are parties. All parts of the British Empire will be parties to any such dispute in which any one of them is involved. While therefore H.M. Government of the United Kingdom in common with H.M. Governments in other parts of the Empire firmly maintains the right of the United Kingdom, of the self-governing Dominions and of India, as members of the League to equal status with other members of the League, it is not understood or contended that in case 'of a dispute likely to lead to a rupture' arising between any portion of the Empire and a foreign Power either the United Kingdom or any of the self-governing Dominions or India would be entitled to vote therein in the Assembly.

The reasons which still make an announcement desirable are that though such an announcement would not apparently have any effect at this juncture upon the fortunes of the Treaty and the League in the Senate, it is possible

¹ Des messages analogues ont été envoyés le même jour au sujet de la révision des Accords de Berlin et de Bruxelles, et de la Convention et du Protocole relatifs au trafic des spiritueux en Afrique, qui ont tous été signés le 10 septembre 1919. (Voir *British Treaty Series*, 1919, n^{os} 12, 18 et 19.)